

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-28. (Cancelled).

29. (Previously Amended) A method for use in monitoring a patient, comprising the steps of:

configuring a photoplethysmographic ("pleth") instrument relative to a patient for a pleth analysis;

causing a respiration rate of said patient to be at least at a given threshold, wherein a frequency of said respiration rate is elevated above a frequency range associated with a Mayer Wave;

first operating said pleth instrument to obtain a pleth signal for said patient; and

second operating said pleth instrument to process said pleth signal for identifying an effect related to said Mayer Wave and providing an output related to said Mayer Wave effect.

30. (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 29, wherein said step of configuring comprises applying a probe of said instrument to said patient so as to transmit an optical signal to perfused tissue of said patient.

31. (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 29, wherein said step of causing comprises instructing said patient to breathe at at least a predetermined threshold.

32. (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 31, wherein said predetermined threshold is at least 10 breaths per minute.

33. (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 31, wherein said predetermined threshold is at least 20 breaths per minute.

34. (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 29, wherein said step of causing comprises

controlling said patient's respiration rate with a respirator.

35. (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 29, wherein said step of second operating comprises causing said instrument to process said pleth signal to obtain heart rate information and process said heart rate information to obtain information regarding heart rate variability.

36. (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 29, wherein said step of second operating comprises causing said instrument to process said pleth signal to obtain information regarding a low frequency blood volume variation of said patient.

37-44. (Cancelled).